

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all the claims that are pending in this application. By this Amendment, new claims 3-8 are added to more fully define the invention.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinstein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,626,569; hereinafter “Reinstein”) in view of Jung et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,892,840; hereinafter “Jung”). Applicant submits the following in traversal of the claim rejections.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable because Reinstein and Jung fail to teach or suggest all elements of claim 1. Claim 1 recites:

A quality control system for an irradiation apparatus comprising:

a radiation image reading means which reads out a radiation image from a stimuable phosphor panel which has been disposed in a predetermined position to receive irradiation of position check radiation from an irradiation means and irradiation of uniform radiation from the irradiation means to an area larger than the area exposed to the position check radiation and to receive irradiation of position check light, the position check light being visible, from a position check light irradiation means after receiving the irradiation of the uniform radiation and to form a radiation image, and

a relative position obtaining means which obtains the relation between the irradiating position of the position check radiation and the irradiating position of the position check light on the basis of the radiation image read by the radiation image reading means.

For example, Reinstein and Jung fail to teach or suggest the relative position obtaining means, as recited in the claim. Although the Examiner cites the image processing software in computer 20 of Reinstein, there is nothing in Reinstein which teaches or suggests that the image processing software obtains the relation between the irradiating position of the *position check radiation* and the irradiating position of the *position check light on the basis of the radiation image read by the radiation image reading means*.

In the Office Action, the Examiner cites col. 10, line - col. 11, line 16, among other sections, as allegedly disclosing aspects of the claimed invention. Although this section discloses edges associated with the radiation beam and the light beam, both of these beams are *not* directly recorded on the radiographic film. Rather, Reinstein merely teaches a photon beam, i.e., the radiation beam/field, captured on a radiographic film and reading the image generated by the photon beam captured on the film. The light beam, however, is not recorded on the radiographic film. In contrast, claim 1 recites a position check radiation and a position check light.

For reasons similar to those submitted for claim 1, claim 2 is patentable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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